

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PREL, FR

SUBJECT: TURKEY, GREECE AND CYPRUS

1. IN COURSE OF TOUR D'HORIZON JULY 6 WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY VEST, FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE ASKED RE
STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION EFFORT TO LIFT EMBARGO AGAINST
TURKEY. HE NOTED REPORTS THAT KYPRIANOU WAS SUGGESTING
THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAD NOW GIVEN UP ITS EFFORTS TO
LIFT ARMS EMBARGO. VEST SAID THIS WAS ABSURD. ON THE
CONTRARY, WE WERE ENTERING A VERY ACTIVE PHASE TO OBTAIN
REMOVAL OF EMBARGO. IN THE DAYS AHEAD THERE WILL BE MORE
HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS,
AS WELL AS MORE BREAKFASTS AND INTENSIVE
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CONTACTS WITH THE CONGRESS, ALL AIMED AT REMOVING THE
EMBARGO. OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE IS THAT THE SENATE VOTE
WILL OCCUR DURING THIRD WEEK OF JULY; IN THE HOUSE, VOTE
SHOULD COME BY END OF JULY OR EARLY IN AUGUST.

2. DE LABOULAYE ASKED HOW U.S. INTENDED TO SOFTEN THE
BLOW IN ATHENS, ASSUMING EMBARGO WAS LIFTED. HE NOTED

PRESIDENT GISCARD'S PREOCCUPATION WITH THIS MATTER.
VEST SAID AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY WILL BE IN WASHINGTON

SHORTLY, AND WE SHALL SEEK HIS ADVICE ON THIS QUESTION.
AT TIME OF NATO SUMMIT KARAMANLIS HAD VERY FRANK CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IF EMBARGO IS LIFTED, WE SHALL HAVE TO FIND WAYS TO SOFTEN THE BLOW IN GREECE, AS WELL AS CYPRUS. IF EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED, THEN WE SHALL BE CONCERNED ABOUT TURKEY'S REACTION. VEST REITERATED THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE EMBARGO BE LIFTED AND SAID IN WEEKS AHEAD WE ANTICIPATE THE NEED FOR HELP OF OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES AND THE EC-9 WITH TURKEY AND GREECE WHICHEVER WAY THE DECISION GOES IN CONGRESS. HE NOTED THAT PARTLY AT OUR REQUEST TURKS HAD DEMONSTRATED MORE FLEXIBILITY ON CYPRUS.

3. DE LABOULAYE OBSERVED THAT KARAMANLIS WAS OBVIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT THE NEXT SET OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY, THOSE RELATING TO AEGEAN PROBLEMS. VEST SAID THAT BOTH ECEVIT AND KARAMANLIS SHARE THIS CONCERN. THE SITUATION WILL NEED VERY CAREFUL HANDLING TO AVOID LETTING EITHER SIDE THINK IT IS THE EXCLUSIVE WINNER OR LOSER.

4. IN RESPONSE TO DE LABOULAYE QUESTION RE COUNSELOR NIMETZ' ROLE IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN POLICY MATTERS,
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VEST EXPLAINED KEY ROLE NIMETZ PLAYED AND IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTION ENCOURAGED DE LABOULAYE TO CALL ON NIMETZ TO DISCUSS THIS AREA. DE LABOULAYE SAID HE WOULD DO SO. VANCE

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